Declaration of Jain Community as a minority community

†1607. SHRI BANWARI LAL KANCHHAL: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether eleven State Governments including Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Jharkhand, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, Bihar and Punjab have declared the Jain Community as a minority community;

(b) whether Government would also declare the community as a minority community in the whole country like the above States; and

(c) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI. A.R. ANTULAY): (a) As per available reports, the State Governments of Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh have declared the Jain community as a minority community.

(b) No such decision has been taken.

(c) Does not arise.

Power supply through renewable sources

1608. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total requirement of power supply for the country, how much of it is met through electricity and how much is met from wind energy, solar energy and other renewable energy sources;

(b) how much potential of renewable energy has been exploited, at present;

(c) the constraints in fully exploiting this source; and

(d) whether the production cost of renewable energy can be reduced and made easily viable and workable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) The power supply requirement in the country is being met through an installed capacity of 1,34,716 MW as on 30.06.2007, of which the share of renewable power installed capacity is 10,430 MW, corresponding to around 7.75 per cent of the total.

(b) Around one-eight of the currently estimated potential of around 84,776 MW has been harnessed for grid-interactive renewable power, as on 30.06.2007.

(c) While there might not be any major constraint in harnessing this potential from the technical angle, it is not economically viable to do so at this juncture. Alongside, the known constraints are the following:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.